(b) whether a demand has also been made to provide flights for all parts of the country from there; and

(c) if so, what is Government's response to these demands?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) A request has been received from the State Government of Rajasthan for construction of an airport at Ajmcr. The Airports Authority of India has identified a possible site for construction of a new airport at Ajmcr. The proposal is at a preliminary stage at present.

New airport in Uttarkashi

2377. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to construct a new airport in or around Uttarkashi;

(b) whether any helipad airport is functioning in Uttarkashi;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government arc going to construct a new airport in Uttarkashi?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) There is a small airstrip belonging to the State Government at Chinyali Saur in Uttarkashi Block. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no plans at present to construct a new airport in or around Uttarkashi.

Upgradation of fleet operation

2378. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any commendable steps to upgrade fleet operation of national airlines in comparison with foreign airlines during the last three years in keeping with the competition:

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Air India has taken following steps to upgade its fleet operations: (i) Air India has dry leased five A310-300 aircrafts; (ii) Structural modification of three B747-400 was carried out. Presently fourth aircraft VT-ESP B747 is undergoing modification; (iii) In the wake of 11 September, 2001 incident, as recommended by Regulatory Authorities, modification of strengthening of the cockpit door security has been completed; (iv) As per DGCA's directive, all the aircrafts in India arc equipped with Enhanced Ground Proximity Warning Systems (EGPWS). This system has been mandated in the rest of the world also by FAA with compliance before 29.3.2005; (v) Reduce Vertical Separation Minima (RVSM) Qualification has been accomplished on Air India's A310 fleet and various maintenance checks and calibration at regular intervals were carried out.

Indian Airlines has also inducted five A320 aircrafts on lease. The lease term of two A300 B4 aircrafts taken in.May June 1998 was further extended for a period of two years. Indian Airlines is considering lease of six ATR 43-500 aircrafts for its wholly owned subsidiary Alliance Air. The Board of Directors of Indian Airlines has approved a proposal for acquisition of 43 aircrafts and is seeking Government approval.

Renaming of Lucknow Airport

2379. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to rename Lucknow Airport as Lucknow-Kanpur Airport with a view to give fillip to International tourism as absence of name of 'Kanpur' from international air network ail over the globe, often results in prospective tourists from gettingVisiting this industrial capital of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?